

EQIP Wildlife Appendix for Virginia

- 512 – Pasture and Hayland Planting – Native Warm Season Grasses
- 382 – Fence
- 327 – Conservation Cover on Cropland
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- 392 – Riparian Forest Buffer – Mast Producing Hardwoods

Establishment of listed practices will be completed according to the Field Office Technical Guide Standards and Specifications and the Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia (PEGV). Where more than one vegetative practice is listed in the PEGV, only the listed wildlife option(s) may be used to satisfy EQIP Wildlife Evaluation Points. **EQIP Wildlife Practices may only be established on land treated with EQIP cost-share funds or on land immediately adjacent to EQIP treated acres.**

For 10 point category – at least 5% of EQIP acres or land immediately adjacent must be established in approved wildlife practices or at least 1.5 Acres.

For 20 point category – at least 10% of EQIP acres or land immediately adjacent must be established in approved wildlife practices or at least 2.5 Acres.

The resource concern (forestry, cropland, grazing, animal waste) must be addressed in the EQIP contract. Wildlife habitat enhancement may not be the only treatment in an EQIP contract.

512 – Pasture and Hayland Planting – Establishment of native Warm Season Grasses for drought proofing, diversifying forage production and enhancing wildlife habitat.

Practice Instructions provided to the producer – “Establishment / Management of Native Perennial Warm Season Grasses”

Incentive Payments – A \$80 per acre incentive payment may be paid for up to three years. The incentive payment is to assist producers establish and maintain native warm season grasses in order to provide premium wildlife habitat and livestock forage on grazing and haylands.

Qualified Cover – Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia mixture 42 only.

NOTE – Warm Season Grasses may take up to a two year period to become fully established. Special caution should be taken for any mechanical harvest or grazing during the establishment period.

382 – Fence Where applicable, cost-sharing for fencing will be available to separate native warm season grass plantings from cool-season and other forage stands already established. In addition, fencing may be required to properly manage the warm season grass stand when grazed.

327 – Conservation Cover – Cropland Only To provide producers needed flexibility in cropping rotations, reduce nutrient loading to adjacent water bodies and reduce soil erosion. The practice establishes a short-term wildlife cover on marginal cropland.

Incentive Payment – A \$100 per acre incentive payment may be paid for up to three years where wildlife species are planted. The incentive payment is to encourage row crop producers to reduce tillage and nutrient applications, and develop habitat for wildlife.

Plantings will not be required where natural succession can be used to produce desirable grasses, legumes, forbs or shrubs. Where natural succession is used the incentive payment will be \$35 per acre for up to three years.

Qualified Cover – Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia mixtures 43, 45, 46, 47, or 48.

386 – Field Border for Wildlife To provide food and cover on the edge of crop fields.

Practice Instructions provided to producer – “ Field Borders for Wildlife Habitat”.

Incentive payment – A \$100 per acre incentive payment may be paid for up to three years.

Qualified Cover – Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia mixtures 42, 43, and 44 only.

338 – Prescribed Burning – Areas selected for this practice will include native warm season grass pastures and hayland, forestland of the age and composition suitable to conduct prescribed burning, and abandoned pastures, abandoned cropland, and other odd weedy areas.

Prescribed burning must be planned and conducted under the supervision of certified personnel

Incentive payment – A one time \$20 per acre incentive payment may be paid to encourage participants to create and/or maintain early successional habitat for bobwhite quail, grassland birds and other wildlife.

394 – Firebreaks may be required to accompany prescribed burning.

390 – Riparian Herbaceous Buffer – for the establishment of Warm Season Grass Mixtures. Riparian Herbaceous Buffers where warm season grasses are established will receive additional wildlife points only if the minimum area criterion is met. The practice is eligible for the Herbaceous Buffer incentive payment. There is no additional incentive payment for wildlife value.

Qualified Cover Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia mixture 42 only.

Riparian Forest Buffer for Wildlife – establishment of specified mast producing hardwood trees. Riparian Forest Buffers where specified mast producing trees are established will receive additional wildlife points only if the minimum area criterion is met. The practice is eligible for the Forest Buffer incentive payment. There is no additional incentive payment for wildlife value.

Qualified Hardwood Trees – includes any combination of three or more species of oaks, Black Gum or Hickory listed in the Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia.